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## DESCRIPTIONS OF TWO NEW SPECIES OF BIRDS FROM THE AUSTRO-MALAYAN REGION.

BY E. P. RAMSAY, F.R.S.E., F.L.S.

HALCYON (*Cyanalcyon*) ALBONOTATA, sp. nov.

*Adult male*, the whole of the head rich dark blue, brighter and of an ultramarine tint over the eyebrows and on the sides of the head; from the lores and mandible across the ear-coverts and round the hind neck a narrow deep blue band, a small white spot in front of the nostrils and a rather large semi-lunar white spot on the nape; the throat and all the under surface, a broad collar on the hind neck, the interscapular region, the whole of the back and rump, and upper and under tail coverts, white; wings and tail dark blue, concealed portions of the quills black margined with white at the base; under wing-coverts white, a black spot on their tips at the base of the primaries; bill black, feet and legs blackish grey.

Length, 6·8; wing, 3·3; tail, 2·1 inch; tarsus, 0·45; bill from forehead, 1·4 from nostril 1 1 height at nostril 0·4 its width 0·4.

*Hab.* New Britain.

This description has been taken from a single specimen received in spirits, and which proved on dissection to be a male. It belongs properly to the sub-genus *Cyanalcyon*, and is most nearly allied to *C. diops*, *C. leucopygialis*, and *C. macleayana*, but may be distinguished from all of them by its white interscapular region, back, and upper tail colours. It appears to be smaller than any other species of the genus, being about the same size or smaller than *Halcyon recurvirostris*.

PITTA (*Erythropitta*) FINSCHII. sp. nov.

The whole of the head, nape, neck and chin of a dark reddish chocolate brown, tinged with reddish in certain lights; throat black, across the chest a broad band of blue, bounded below by a narrow band of black, all the feathers of this black band tipped with crimson; the remainder of the under surface very deep rich crimson; outer series of the under tail coverts tipped with blackish blue. The whole of the upper surface, lower portion of hind neck, wings and tail deep blue of the same tint as that of the chest, inner webs of the quills above, and all their under surface black, a small white spot on the shoulder coverts, and an oval white spot on the 3rd, 4th, and in some on the 5th primary quill.

Bill black, legs and feet blackish brown.

Length of skins 6 to 7 inches.

Wing, 4 inches; tail, 2 inches; tarsus, 1·6; bill from forehead 1·15, from nostril 0·8.

*Hab.*—Astrolabe range.

What I take to be the females or not quite adult individuals have the sides of the chest and interscapular region oil green.

Dr. Otto Finsch, however, is of opinion that these with the green backs must be referred to *Pitta macklotii* (Tem.)

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NOTES AND EXHIBITS.

Professor Stephens exhibited, for the Rev. J. Milne Curran, some specimens of the conifer *Walchia Milneana* known only from the coal measures of Ballimore, near Dubbo. Also a specimen of *Spirifer* from the Marine Coal Measures, near Mudgee.